



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,633	12/07/2001	Yasufumi Yahiro	200380-9011	6427

7590 02/14/2003

MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

EXAMINER

VU, HIEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,633

Applicant(s)

YAHIRO ET AL.

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2833

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the cross section of the elastic member and the supporter made of rubber must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of species 2, Figs 3, 4, 6 and 8, claims 1-10 in paper No. 4 is acknowledged

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The following are examples of the terms or features which are confusing and unclear. Claim 1, lines 5, it is unclear what exactly the final direction is; line 8, it is unclear what plane is referred as the first plane; lines 8-9, it is unclear how the first portion of the elastic member could be in the first direction; line 9, it is unclear what is being pushed in the final direction; line 11, "a supporter...space" is unclear since much feature has no basis in the specification; line 12, it is

Art Unit: 2833

unclear what plane is referred as the second plane and how the second portion of the elastic member could be in the first direction; lines 13-14, the features "the second portion... the first direction" are not understood. Claim 3, lines 3-6, the features "a first interval...plate object" are not understood. Claim 5 features are not understood. Claim 6, it is unclear what exactly the first and second directions are; lines 4-5, the features "the arms being...second direction" are confusing and unclear.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki in view of Hasenauser, Jr.

Insofar as the claims can be understood due to the indefiniteness above, Mochizuki and Hasenauser are applied as follows: Mochizuki, Figs. 1-4 show a housing 2 having a first and a second plane (21b, 21a), an elastic member 4, a supporter 3, holding means (21e, 53), a plate object 6. Mochizuki does not show the connector housing having a film contact including electrical contacts corresponding to the terminals of the plate object. Hasenauser, Figs 1-3 show a connector having a film contact 3 including electrical contacts 9 corresponding to terminals 2 of a plate object. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of

Art Unit: 2833

Mochizuki by providing the connector housing with a film contact with features as described above, as taught by Hasenauer, in order to provide the circuit card connector with a flexible cable to effect a connection between a plurality of circuits on circuit card and a plurality of circuits on a circuit board.

As to claim 6, arms 5, latches 54.

As to claim 7, in absence of any showing of criticality of applicant to form the elastic member and the supporter to be integrally formed with the first and the second planes would have been obvious of modification since such changes provide unexpected result.

As to claim 8, spring pieces 53.

As to claim 9, tab portions 22a.

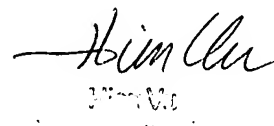
As to claim 10, to form the elastic member and the supporter to be rubber would have been obvious of modification since such changes are old and well known in the art.

7. Lopata et al, Zielke, McCullough, Howell et al, Sakata et al and Olsson are cited for disclosure of electrical card edge connectors.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien Vu at telephone number (703) 308-2009.

H VU/pj

01/21/03



Hien Vu